



## **Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey through the Bodleian Collections**

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# Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey through the Bodleian Collections

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The Bodleian Library is home to one of the world's largest and oldest collections of maps, with atlases, maps, and books on cartography dating back to the fourteenth century, including many that are among the most rare and historically significant.

*Treasures from the Map Room* publishes seventy-five extraordinary examples from this collection, housed in the Map Room at the newly renovated Weston Library. The maps reproduced in *Treasures* range from the fourteenth to the twenty-first century. Among them are the fourteenth-century Gough Map, the earliest road map of Great Britain that achieved a remarkable level of accuracy and detail for its time; fifteenth-century portolan charts intended for maritime navigation; the Selden Map of China, the earliest Chinese map to show shipping routes; and an important early map from the medieval Islamic *Book of Curiosities*. The book also includes a great many recent examples, including J. R. R. Tolkien's map of Middle Earth and C. S. Lewis's map of Narnia. Debbie Hall takes readers back in time to uncover the fascinating story of each treasure, from a map plotting outbreaks of cholera to a jigsaw map of India from the 1850s and silk escape maps carried by pilots flying missions over occupied Europe during World War II.

With lavish full-color photography and descriptions of each map's provenance, purpose, and creation, *Treasures from the Map Room* is a beautiful and informative catalog of this remarkable collection.

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